Quality of Rails produced by Bhilai Steel Plant

888. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to higher costs and supply of poor quality of rails by the Bhilai Steel Plant. The Indian Railways have had to buy rails from abroad; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to improve the quality of rails produced by Bhilai Steel Plant and lower its production cost to make it competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Bhilai Steel Plant has been supplying quality rails to Indian Railways at an agreed price, which is less than the landed cost of same quality rails at the prevailing international prices. Rails are supplied to Indian Railways after undergoing stringent quality tests and inspections conducted by third party inspection agency appointed by Indian Railways.

For improving the rail quality, BSP is conforming to the latest standard IRST-12-96 which is comparable to the best in the World. BSP has also undertaken technological and production process improvement measures to ensure supply of quality rails at competitive prices.

Unutilised funds by PSUs

889. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various PSUs under his Ministry have generated huge funds through various measures and these funds are lying unutilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the complete details of funds generated during the last two years; and